(c) whether the concerned State Government have beefed up security in their respective territories as per the advice of the Central Government;

(d) whether the Central Government have taken up the matter with Nepal and Bangladesh in this regard; and

(e) if so, their reaction and if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI) : (a) to (e) The State Governments of North-East and West Bengal as well as Central Para-Military Forces-Special Service Bureau (SSB) personnel deployed on Indo-Nepal border and Border Security Force deployed on Indo-Bangladesh borders have been advised about effective guarding of international border areas to check the infiltration of terrorists from the neighbouring countries, including, Nepal and Bangladesh. The concerned State Governments have alerted their police authorities posted in all the border districts.

Besides, a series of measures have been taken by the Government to curb the illegal cross border movement of militants. These include raising of additional battalions Security Force, reduction of gaps between the border outposts, intensification of patrolling both on the land and the riverine border, increase in the number of outpost towers, provision of surveillance equipments, accelerated programme of construction of border roads and fencing.

The matter has been taken up with the Governments of neighbouring countries , including, Bangladesh and Nepal. They have assured that they will not allow undesirable elements to use their territory for activities prejudicial to this interests of India.

Agreement between India and China for Concerning International Silk Market

*606. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD:

DR.T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether during the meeting between a nine member high-level delegation from China and officials of the Union Textiles Ministry

in New Delhi in March, 2002, China has suggested to India to synergise each other's strong points in the area of silk so that they can jointly corner a significant part of the growing international silk market;

(b) whether both the countries have signed an agreement in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) to (c) A Chinese textile delegation, led by the Vice President, China National Textile Industry council has visited India in March 2002. In its meeting with the Secretary (Textiles), the delegation had informal exchanges for building co-operation between the two countries in the field of textiles, including jute and silk. During the informal discussions, no agreement had been signed.

Amendment of Constitution for Providing Regional Reservation in Karnataka

*607 SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Karnataka has forwarded a proposal for amendment of the constitution for providing regional reservation in Karnataka in the fields of education, employment etc;

(b) if so, the details of the action taken in this regard; and

(c) whether any similar requests have been received by the Ministry from other States, if so the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS' (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. A proposal has been received from the State Government of Karnataka to amend Article 371 of the Constitution for providing regional reservation in Karnataka in the field of education, employment etc. The State Government were asked for certain details/clarifications on their proposal. Some clarifications have been received from the State Government on 29.4.2002 which are under examination. No similar proposal to provide for regional reservation under Article 371 of the Constitution has been received from any other State.